

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 211553Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8238

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1995

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, OVIP, NO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S. BY NORWEGIAN PRIME  
MINISTER

1. NORWAY IS PLANNING EXTENSIVE CELEBRATIONS IN 1975  
TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YEAR WHEN  
NORWEGIAN EMIGRANTS FIRST SET SAIL FOR THE NEW WORLD.  
AT A TIME WHEN THE STRENGTHENED LEFT IN NORWAY IS TRYING TO  
WEAKEN THE SECURITY LINKS BINDING OUR TWO COUNTRIES,  
MANY NORWEGIANS WHO ARE CONCERNED OVER THESE EFFORTS  
SEE THIS ANNIVERSARY AS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY  
TO REMIND NORWEGIANS OF WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO NORWAY,  
BOTH IN THE PAST AND AT THE PRESENT TIME. I SHARE  
THEIR CONCERN AND THEIR HOPE TO USE THIS ANNIVERSARY  
IN OUR COMMON INTEREST.

2. THE EMBASSY WILL ACCORDINGLY BE WORKING WITH APPROPRIATE  
NORWEGIAN AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO DEVELOP A VARIED  
PROGRAM IN 1975 CALCULATED TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT ON  
PUBLIC OPINION IN NORWAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WAS  
GRATIFIED BY THE FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO MY RECENT  
DISCUSSIONS OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY WITH USIA  
DIRECTOR KEOGH AND CU ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON. I UNDER-  
STAND THAT KING OLAV V HAS AGREED THAT EITHER HE OR  
CROWN PRINCE HARALD WILL MAKE AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT  
TO THE U.S., BEGINNING PROBABLY IN OCTOBER 1975, TO  
PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

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SINCE THE KING WAS RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE DURING

OTHER UNOFFICIAL VISITS (MOST RECENTLY IN SEPTEMBER 1971), IT WOULD SEEM VERY APPROPRIATE THAT HE MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT ALSO ON THIS OCCASION.

3. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF POPULAR IMPACT IN NORWAY, HOWEVER, AN OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER, TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE ANNIVERSARY, WOULD CERTAINLY BE THE SINGLE MOST DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF CLOSE U.S. -NORWEGIAN TIES. PRIME MINISTER GERHARDSSEN IN 1962 WAS THE LAST NORWEGIAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S.

4. IN ADDITION TO ITS POPULAR IMPACT, AN OFFICIAL VISIT WOULD PROVIDE A VERY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL VARIOUS KEY ELEMENTS IN OUR RELATIONS (E.G. SECURITY COOPERATION BOTH BILATERAL AND WITHIN NATO, OIL POLICY, SVALBARD). THESE DISCUSSIONS COULD SERVE A VARIETY OF PURPOSES, INCLUDING STIFFENING NORWAY'S BACK DURING THE SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH BEGIN THIS FALL WITH THE USSR ON DIVISION OF THE POTENTIALLY OIL-RICH CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BARENTS SEA. THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TOP-LEVEL MEETINGS TO ALLAY CONCERN ABOUT THE STEADFASTNESS OF U.S. POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT FOR NORWAY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

5. I STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL FIND TIME IN 1975 TO RECEIVE THE NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT. IN ALL PROBABILITY TRYGVE BRATTELI WILL STILL BE THE PRIME MINISTER AT THAT TIME, BUT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO PLAN THE VISIT REGARDLESS OF WHO IS IN OFFICE. (THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE INCUMBENT WOULD BE AN UNACCEPTABLE RADICAL.)

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF IT APPEARS THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT ISSUE AN INVITATION FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT NEXT YEAR, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO BEGIN PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE VISIT NOW. WE WOULD WISH, FOR EXAMPLE, TO  
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DETERMINE WHAT OTHER COMMITMENTS THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT ALREADY HAVE FOR STATE VISITS IN 1975. YOUR EARLIEST GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
BYRNE

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NNN

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